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(*d*) whether it is a fact that the purpose of Prohibition in belt area will not be properly served if the arrack shops are kept open;

(*e*) whether the Government will be pleased to issue orders to close the arrack shops as well;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that the coconut trees in Conjeeveram town are being tapped after the 1st of October; and

(*g*) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to issue orders to stop the tapping of the coconut and other palm trees within the belt area?

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" (*a*) No. But a belt area of 5 miles adjoining the North Arcot and other Prohibition districts, free of liquor shops, has been established.

" (*b*) *to* (*e*) All toddy shops were ordered to be closed from 1st October 1947. All arrack shops also were ordered to be closed after giving 15 days' notice.

" (*f*) Yes.

" (*g*) As some of the toddy shops outside the five-mile belt area depend mainly on the trees within the belt area, it is not possible to issue orders as suggested."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether the Government are aware that in the absence of toddy shops, every coconut and palm tree becomes a toddy shop and that toddy is sold under the trees? That is what happens every day under the trees."

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" The rule absolutely prohibits any such state of affairs. It is not possible or practicable for the Government to post a police constable or an excise official under every palmyra or coconut tree. But we have issued special instructions to depute some officers to prevent such abuse."

The Provincial Broadcasting department.

* 160 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) the staff employed under the Provincial Broadcasting department and their emoluments;

(*b*) the number of sets installed in the rural areas;

(*c*) whether all the radio sets installed were locally made or purchased;

(*d*) whether any portion or the whole cost of the radio sets is recovered from the local authorities;

(*e*) what are the conditions on which maintenance of these sets is arranged;

(*f*) whether there is any workshop or laboratory attached to the office of the Officer of the Provincial Broadcasting where repairs are carried;

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(g) what is the number of sets purchased and the cost involved;

(h) the number of sets which have been declared as beyond repair;

(i) in the case of sets declared beyond repair, whether the cost of the sets is written off or still treated as a liability due from the local authorities; and

(j) what the procedure followed is, in regard to purchase of new sets?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON (on behalf of Hon. Minister for Public Works) :—" (a) to (j) Attention is invited to the paper [a] placed on the table of the House."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether the Government propose to set up a workshop where these radio sets can be repaired without the need for sending them to the dealers for repair? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" That will be considered."

Cigarette factories in the Province.

* 161 Q.—SRI P. VEERABHADRASWAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) how many cigarette factories there are in our Province and where are they situated;

(b) what is their share capital owned by foreigners and by Indians;

(c) the total cost of the cigarettes produced in the Province during 1945–46 and 1946–47;

(d) the cost of cigarettes imported into the Province in 1945–46 and 1946–47; and

(e) whether Government propose to start cigarette factories in the Province or permit private individuals or companies to start a few factories?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" (a) There is one cigarette factory at Bezwada, Kistna district.

" (b) to (d) No information is available with the Government in respect of these.

" (e) Government do not propose to start any cigarette factory. No permission is required from the Government for the starting of cigarette factories by private individuals or companies. In case, however, the capital of the proposed company exceeds Rs. 5 lakhs, the usual sanction for Capital Issues has to be obtained from the Examiner of Capital Issues, New Delhi."

a Printed as Appendix V on pages 42–49 infra.